UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/511
23 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 62 (b)

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Regional confidence-building measures

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II.	ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE	3 - 9	2
III.	PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE	10	4
IV.	CONCLUSIONS	11 - 13	7

92-52180 4285a (E) 271092 271092

271092

/...

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, on 6 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/37 B, which contains the following key paragraphs:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Supports and encourages efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels in Central Africa;
>
> "2. Welcomes the initiative taken by the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States with a view to developing confidence-building measures, disarmament and development in their subregion, by, in particular, the creation, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa;
>
> "3. Thanks the Secretary-General for his contribution to the Yaoundé seminar-workshop and requests him to continue providing assistance to the Central African States in implementing the recommendations and conclusions set forth in the final document of the seminar-workshop, by, in particular, establishing the standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa;
>
> "4. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;
>
> "5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled 'Regional confidence-building measures'."

2. This report is submitted by the Secretary-General in implementation of paragraph 4 of the resolution.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 46/37 B, on 28 May 1992 the Secretary-General established the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa under the auspices of the United Nations. The purpose of the Committee is to develop confidence-building measures and to encourage arms limitation and development in the Central African subregion. The Committee's deliberations will take

place at different levels, including meetings of experts (high-level military and civilian officials), ministerial meetings and talks between the heads of State concerned at their annual meetings in the context of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Sammy Kum Buo of the Secretariat's Office for Disarmament Affairs (Department of Political Affairs) as Secretary of the Standing Advisory Committee.

4. The Committee held its ministerial-level organizational meeting at Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1992 with the assistance provided by the Office for Disarmament Affairs from extrabudgetary funding. The Director of the Office represented the Secretary-General at the meeting. Delegations from the following countries attended the meeting: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire.* Most of the delegations were headed by the minister for foreign affairs or the minister of defence of the country concerned.

5. During the opening ceremony, presided over by Mr. Jacques-Roger Booh Booh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon, Burundi's Secretary of State for Cooperation and head of delegation, Mr. Charles Itangishaka, read a message from Mr. Pierre Buyoya, President of the Republic of Burundi and current President of ECCAS, underlining the importance of confidence-building measures for the stability and development of the subregion.

6. The officers of the Committee were elected by consensus as follows: Chairman, Cameroon; First Vice-Chairman, Gabon; Second Vice-Chairman, Burundi; General Rapporteur, Sao Tome and Principe.

7. The Committee adopted the following procedural decisions:

(a) The Committee's rules of procedure shall be those of the General Assembly;

(b) The officers of the Committee shall serve for a term of six months and the offices shall be held by rotation;

(c) The Committee gave its Chairman a mandate to hold consultations with a view to inviting a number of interested States and organizations to participate in its work as observers;

(d) Given the importance of the role of political will in promoting confidence-building and security measures, the Committee requested the head of the delegation of Burundi to transmit to the head of State of Burundi in his capacity as current President of ECCAS, its wish to have issues relating to

---

* Angola, which was recently admitted as a full member of ECCAS, was unable to attend this meeting.

confidence-building and security put on the agenda of the annual summit meeting of ECCAS heads of State.

8. At the organizational meeting, whose purpose was to draw up the Committee's programme and calendar of work, two keynote presentations were made. The first, entitled "Promotion of confidence-building and security measures in the Central African subregion", was made by Gen. Idriss Ngari, Chief of Staff of the Gabonese Armed Forces and President of the 1988 ECCAS Conference on the Promotion of Confidence, Security and Development. The second presentation, entitled "Public affairs management and development: Priorities for Central Africa", was given by Mr. Emmanuel E. Mbi, World Bank senior administrator for Africa. In addition, the Republic of Cameroon submitted a working paper entitled "Standing Advisory Committee on Questions of Security in Central Africa: Proposals by Cameroon".

9. After a thorough exchange of views among participants, and taking into account General Assembly resolution 46/37 B and the statements made and papers submitted at the organizational meeting, the Committee adopted the programme of work set out below, which divides the topics to be considered into two groups of proposals according to the Committee's calendar of work.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

10. Classification of confidence-building and security measures according to priority:

Priority I. Measures that could be implemented during the initial stage of activities

A. Preventive diplomacy

1. Respect for the sovereignty of States.

2. Adherence by all States of the subregion to international legal instruments on arms limitation and disarmament.

3. Encouragement and promotion of the policy of voluntary repatriation of refugees and application of practical measures to enable them to reintegrate into society, as a humanitarian element of confidence-building.

4. Conclusion of a subregional non-aggression pact.

5. Establishment of hotlines between heads of State of the subregion.

6. Increased meetings of heads of State of the subregion.

7. Organization of regular joint meetings of ministers of defence, of the interior and for foreign affairs, as well as of chiefs of staff of the subregion.

8. Establishment and improvement of transparency in military activities: prior notification to other States of each State's military manoeuvres, and invitation of observers of the countries concerned.

9. Environmental safeguards.

10. Agreement on the part of all States in the subregion not to produce, acquire or transfer weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

B. Peace building

1. Strengthening and consolidation of the democratization process and promotion of respect for human rights in the subregion.

2. Respect for commitments undertaken between States of the subregion.

3. Establishment of a crisis-management body in each member State.

4. Increased involvement of the people and the media in the pursuit of the ideals of peace, security and development in the subregion.

5. Measures to promote awareness among potential emigrants or immigrants of the laws and the culture of receiving countries.

6. Increased cooperation in the area of emigration and immigration through the drafting or implementation of subregional legislation on the movement of persons.

7. Expansion of cooperation and exchange programmes in the fields of information, culture and education.

8. Exchange of military delegations.

9. Elaboration of specific measures for promoting agreement on a balanced and gradual reduction of the military forces, equipment and budgets of the States of the subregion.

10. Assistance in connection with the restructuring of armies and redeployment of the military.

C. Peacemaking and peace-keeping

Establishment of a standing inter-State general staff for crisis management that might study the advisability of setting up a peace-keeping force, and ways of funding it.

D. Training of peace-keeping personnel

Development of cooperation with training institutions specializing in the field of conflict prevention and the management of peace-keeping operations.

E. Compliance and verification

Establishment of appropriate verification measures in conjunction with the confidence-building and security measures mentioned above.

Priority II. Measures that could be implemented at a later date

A. Preventive diplomacy

1. Expansion of each State's actual diplomatic presence in all the other countries of the subregion.

2. Strengthening of subregional cooperation in the field of military training.

3. Organization of joint military manoeuvres and exercises and mixed patrols.

4. Training, at the subregional level, in the management of emergency humanitarian assistance operations.

B. Peace building

1. Elaboration and strengthening of machinery and instruments for promoting efforts to settle disputes peacefully.

2. Strengthening of regional integration.

3. Development of cooperation between neighbouring countries through the creation of markets in border zones, expansion of contacts between border authorities and implementation of joint economic development projects in border zones.

4. Development of means of transport and communication between States of the subregion.

5. Creation of demilitarized zones and zones of peace.

C. Peacemaking and peace-keeping

Establishment of a standing inter-State general staff for crisis management that might study the advisability of setting up a peace-keeping force, and ways of funding it.

D. Training of peace-keeping personnel

Establishment of a subregional centre for the training of peace-keeping personnel.

E. Compliance and verification

Establishment of appropriate verification measures in conjunction with the confidence-building and security measures mentioned above.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

11. The discussions held during the organizational meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, as well as the programme of work adopted at that meeting, have paved the way for effective collaboration between the United Nations and the member States of ECCAS to promote and consolidate peace and progress in the Central African subregion.

12. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/37 B, expressed its support and encouragement for efforts of the Central African States aimed at promoting confidence-building measures in their area, and requested the Secretary-General to continue providing assistance in such efforts. The establishment of the Standing Advisory Committee is a first step in that direction. It will be very important to take advantage of the momentum generated by the establishment and inauguration of the Committee so as to enable it to begin its substantive work, i.e., the drafting, adoption and implementation of specific confidence-building measures. The programme and calendar of work adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee provide a useful starting-point for planning and implementing a rational and realistic strategy to coordinate United Nations support for this initiative.

13. The agreement on the part of the States of the Central African subregion to renounce the use of force as a political option in their relations, and instead to seek constructive and practical measures for strengthening trust and cooperation between States, represents a significant political change which deserves the full support and encouragement of the entire international community. If this initiative is successful, in addition to directly benefitting the nearly 100 million people who live in the subregion it will serve as a positive example for the rest of the subregion and even further afield, thus enhancing the prospects for carrying out a viable global peace programme.